

REMARKS

The above preliminary amendment is made to remove multiple dependencies from claims 21 and 22, and to add new claims 23 and 24.

Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

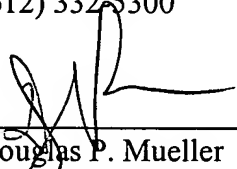
If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, Douglas P. Mueller (Reg. No. 30,300), at (612) 371.5237.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: August 19, 2004

By



Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

DPM/jh